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UNCLAS ASUNCION 000781

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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

REF: STATE 118192

¶1. Per reftel the U.S. Embassy in Asuncion is transmitting the text of President Lugo's congratulatory message to President-elect Obama.

(BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

Republic of Paraguay
Fernando Lugo Mendez
President of the Republic of Paraguay

Asuncion, November 5, 2008

Mr. President-Elect:

On behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Paraguay, as well as on my own behalf, please accept the most sincere congratulations for your great victory during your country's elections, where I am sure democracy triumphed.

Change has arrived for your country, and I am convinced that the people of the United States of America will have in you a true, supportive and significant leader.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm the desire of our government to deepen bilateral relations and ongoing cooperation relationships between our two governments.

Wishing you good health and personal happiness, as well as prosperity for your nation, I take this opportunity to present to you the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Signed
Fernando Lugo Mendez

Senator
Barack Obama
President/Elect of the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

(END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

¶2. Original document has been sent via diplomatic pouch from the Office of the President to the Paraguayan Embassy in Washington, D.C. for delivery.

Ayalde